

Gospel Identity 9

Am I really a New Creation?

Here is this lesson in short: we are no longer defined by our sins or sinful nature. We are defined by who Jesus says we are.

Think about this, who are you when no one is looking? I mean really think about who you are, or what you do that can possibly define you...

One problem we may consistently run into is defining ourselves by our bad habits, sins, problems, failures, sometimes even our success'. And the solution to get away from this faulty definition, which we may rarely think about, is coming to the realization that our real identity is not defined by any of these things, especially not sin, but by Christ. And He is actively working on the sin in our life and making us into the person he has created us to be. So, we all may still be sinners, but that no longer defines who we are.

1. Is there anyone in your life you would label a "Saint"? Why do you say that about him or her?
2. Does this person inspire you to be a better person? Or does this person make you feel like you can never be like them? Or do they make you feel something completely different? Explain your answer.

The truth of the matter is that no one is born a saint. And no one becomes a saint unless through the work and sacrifice of Jesus. Although we are already made new creations in Christ, we still have unbelief to overcome. We forget who we really are; we start to define ourselves by our failures and success', rather than what God says we are. Important, of worth, lovable. – **Read Galatians 2:20**

We are all sinners – all of us. Paul actually called himself the worst of sinners (**1 Timothy 1:15**), and yet he commonly refers to the church as saints. Why is this?

Read Philippians 3:3-17

3. From a human standpoint, what successes does Paul have without Christ? What do you think he really was in God's eyes?

So in **verse 17** what is it that Paul wants you to "imitate" in his life?

4. Is there anything in your faith that you wish others would know as deeply as you know it? Is there something that is so true and real to you about your faith, that not everyone gets it, but you wish they would?

To grow in Grace means to utilize more and more Grace to live by, until everything we do is assisted by Grace... the greatest saints are not those who need less Grace, but those who consume the most Grace, who indeed are in most need of Grace – those who are saturated by Grace in every dimension of their being. Grace to them is like breath.”

-Dallas Willard

If you are like most people you will define yourself by your success or failures, truthfully the only opinion that matters though is how Jesus defines us. Here is a short list of verses, split them up amongst your group and find out how Jesus defines you.

2 Corinthians 5:17

1 Peter 2:9

Ephesians 2:10

Romans 8:1

John 1:12

2 Corinthians 5:21

John 15:5

1 Corinthians 6:19

1 John 4:4

Romans 12:2

2 Timothy 1:7

Galatians 3:26

John 15:15

1 Peter 2:9-10

God wants you to lean on Him. Jesus wanted you to rely on Him so bad, He paid the ultimate sacrifice for you. And the truth boils down to this, how do you see yourself? Do you see and define yourself as sin? Or do you view yourselves as Jesus views you?

5. Is there an area in your life where you just need to remember your worth in God? Have you failed a test recently? Have you lost a sports game? Have you found yourself stuck in continual sin? Have you been extremely mean to family members or friends? Where do you need this information the most?
6. So, how can you go about your day remembering some of these verses and how Jesus defines you?

—Pray—

Pray for each other that you (they) see how precious God sees you (them).